

REMARKS

The claims as currently presented define the invention to include

" . . .

a slot in the second leg having

(1) an inclined segment that extends upward and away from the first leg, and

(2) a horizontal segment that extends toward the wall molding face from the inclined segment,

wherein the slot is capable of receiving a screw that extends through the slot into the web of the beam end being supported in the clip, with the screw free to slide in the slot during an earthquake and support the beam end in the clip."

Curtis, Patent No. 3,798,865, the primary reference in the rejection, as recited by the Examiner, does not disclose a slot with an inclined portion.

Such an inclined slot is critical to the invention, in that, in an earthquake, the beam end shakes back and forth off the molding ledge, where it normally rests.

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When the beam shakes back and forth over the molding edge, the end of the beam is lifted above the molding ledge to avoid interference between the end of the beam and the molding edge, by the screw that rides in the inclined slot. The screw is secured in the beam end.

In the Office Action, Spronken, Patent No. 5,590,503, is cited to disclose "...a clip (Fig. 5) having a slot (40) that extends at an incline and [a] horizontally."

But Spronken '503 does not permit any screw, or any other member to slide in the slot as set forth in the claims of the present invention.

As seen in Spronken '503 Figure 4, the slots 38 in the arms of brackets 36 are opposed to one another, to lock the bracket 26 to the bar 21, so that no sliding can occur.

This locking action in Spronken '503 is set forth clearly in column 2, lines 36 to 52.

No-one skilled in the art would be led to combine Curtis and Spronken, (Spronken's brackets are for a completely different field of construction than suspended ceilings), but even if such a combination were attempted, the beams of the present invention would be locked to the

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wall molding, rather than slide on the wall molding during an earthquake.

In view of the above, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims, and early allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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